

# CLEMENCEAU

President Confers With the  
French Premier for More  
Than Hour—Col. House  
Also Visits Executive

PARIS, Dec. 19.—Premier Clemenceau and Col. House visited President Wilson this morning. The president received a very cordial audience about 11 o'clock. The French premier and the American minister were engaged for more than an hour. After the interview, Col. House also conferred with the president during the morning. The president said that he had decided to urge him to postpone his plans for recreation, but he hoped to take a short drive with him.

An invitation has been extended the president to visit London at Christmas time. But the president has declined the offer. He has fully planned to dine Christmas day with the American troops in the city.

A luncheon today was handed an address of welcome by the Central Union of French Agricultural Associations, a body of 3,600 affiliated organizations.

After pointing out the share that the French army had in winning the victory for the allies the address set forth the peculiar conditions under which the French army were to be permitted to take part in the peace conference and the fact that protection is necessary for its normal development and for the reconstruction of the cultural effort in the regions devastated by the war.

The plan was seized by the Germans in the occupied French territory and sent to a hostage camp at Holzminden, Germany, where it was read to the delegates upon President Wilson to tell him something of what they suffered, morally and physically, while in prison. The plan was then pronounced.

The plan was formed at the suggestion of Dr. Henry Van Dyke, a member of the association and one of the people in the association at a reunion held recently. He was no struck by the idea of the association giving hostages by the Germans that he advised that a deputation be sent to wait upon Mr. Wilson.

## KING GEORGE READY TO RECEIVE WILSON

LONDON, Dec. 19.—King George, it was announced today, has cancelled the arrangement which provided that he should go to Sandringham palace for Christmas, and he will remain in London instead to welcome President Wilson.

## KING OF ITALY REACHES PARIS; SON WITH HIM

**PARIS, Dec. 19.**—King Victor Emmanuel of Italy arrived here today and was welcomed by President Poincaré, Premier Clemenceau and other ministers. The king was accompanied by his son, the prince of Piedmont.

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**ESTIMATES HOG ISLAND  
PLANT COST 63 MILLIONS**

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.**—The cost of the great shipbuilding plant at Hog Island was estimated today at \$63,300,000 by Charles M'les, general manager of the shipping board's emergency fleet

**NITRATE PLANT WORK  
BUT SLIGHTLY DELAYED**

SHEETFIELD, Ala., Dec. 19. (Sp.)—Officials at United States nitrate plant No. 2 report that construction work is being started by the workers of the strike of plumbers and steamfitters. At labor headquarters here it was stated that none of the other crafts at the plant had joined the strikers, but that a number of men at the cradle were working on work pending the settlement of their wage demands. The impression

appears to prevail among the various labor organizations that adjustments will be made which will be satisfactory to all parties concerned. The officials at the nitrate plant state that 150 men were paid off at the plant yesterday from all departments. This would indicate that only a very small percentage of the 450 strikers demanded their pay as 400 men were paid yesterday as about normal. There had been no disorder of any sort, either at the plants or in any of the Tri-Cities, and the hope is expressed that the difficulty will be adjusted and that the work of completing the great nitrate plant will suffer no further interruption.

## FLORENCE BUSINESS MEN TO EXTEND PHONE LINE

FLORENCE, Ala., Dec. 19. (Sp.)—The business men of Florence have subscribed \$2,550 toward the building of a telephone line to the eastern end of Lauderdale county, so that all the phones in that section may be connected with the Florence exchange. It is stated that the total amount needed will be around \$3,000, and that the balance will be raised before the end of the week. Several hundred rural telephones will be connected with the main line which will be built with this fund.

## SET RAIL LEGISLATION HEARING TO START JAN. 2

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Inauguration of hearings on railroad legislation Jan. 2, to be concluded as soon as possible and distinct from house or joint congressional committee inquiries, was decided upon today by the senate interstate commerce committee. Director-General McAdoo is expected to be the first witness.

"and it is dressed as such that I shall present myself there."

The marshall's well-set frame bulked beside that of most of his brother members of the academy. He delivered his inaugural speech in a deep, resonant voice that filled the chamber where the ceremony took place. After reviewing the part played in the war by France and the other allies, Marshal Joffre said:

"However, so much heroism and resolution would not have sufficed had not the allied peoples taken part in the battle. It was in the conviction that they were fighting for right that the allied nations found the strength to sacrifice and the certainty of ultimate victory. The power of these noble sentiments have been evoked, in terms which are ever present in our memory, by the great President Wilson, while they inspired him to most generous action."